

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 /034 W

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P 301155Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2487

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2580

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SU

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES FOR SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 2490

1. SHORTLY BEFORE COB SAT, AUG 28, CHARGE WAS TELEPHONED BY OFFICE OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE/CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES, FIRST LT. GEN. BESHIR MOHAMED ALI, AND ASKED TO COME IMMEDIATELY TO SEE MINISTER. DURING BRIEF MEETING WHICH FOLLOWED, MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD EARLIER IN DAY BEEN DISCUSSING C-130 REQUESTS WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI. MINISTER HAD BEEN UNABLE REACH FRANCIS DENG AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, SO DECIDED TO DISCUSS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH CHARGE.

2. MINISTER WANTED TO BE SURE WE HAD RECEIVED SECOND FONOFF NOTE (REFTEL). HE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT NOTE WAS NOT FULLY RESPONSIVE TO INFO WE HAD REQUESTED. HE SAID NOTE DID DESCRIBE IN DETAIL TYPE OF EQUIPMENT DESIRED BY GOS. AS FOR THEIR USE, MINISTER STATED EXPLICITLY THAT C-130'S WERE STRICTLY FOR INTERNAL AND DEFENSIVE USE, I.E. TROOP AND EQUIPMENT TRANSH45 285#8, 7\$-.. HE SAID GOS DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO USE THEM FOR ANY OFFENSIVE MILITARY PURPOSES. HE ADDED GOS HAS NO RPT NO OFFENSIVE MILITARY PLANS OF ANY KIND.

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3. WITH REGARD TO FMS ASPECT, BESHIR SAID HE ASKED PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ABOUT THIS. NIMEIRI SAID HE COULD NOT SPECIFY BEYOND WHAT HE HAD SAID IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. CHARGE NOTED THAT ONE GENERAL PROVISION OF ANY FMS SALE IS THAT EQUIPMENT COULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR PRIOR APPROVAL. MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAID HE REALIZED THIS AND THAT SUCH A CLAUSE WAS ALMOST ALWAYS PART OF ANY MILITARY SALES AGREEMENT. HE SAID GOS WOULD NOT RPT NOT TRANSFER C-130S TO ANY THIRD PARTY, AND HE ADDED "WE NEED THEM TOO MUCH OURSELVES TO TRANSFER THEM TO ANYONE ELSE".

4. ON SUDAN MILITARY PROGRAMS IN GENERAL, MINISTER SAID ONLY ABOUT HALF DOZEN SENIOR OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FRANCIS DENG IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MANSOUR KHALID IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, AS WELL AS THEIR SUPERIORS, WERE INVOLVED WITH OR KNOWLEDGEABLE OF GOS REQUEST FOR US MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE NOTED THAT GOS COOPERATING WITH EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE MENTIONED RECENT FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, AND SAID THAT SAG HAS MADE GENERAL COMMITMENT TO FINANCE SUDANESE PURCHASES, AHTOUGH SAG WILL REVIEW SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR FINANCING ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.
BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO02580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-0441
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976087/aaaaafxj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 KHARTOUM 2490
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY SALES FOR SUDAN
TAGS: MASS, SU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006